

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of preparing an aqueous extract comprising saponins on basis of waste product from a shea butter tree, said method comprising the following steps: (i) mixing one part waste product with 4-30 parts of water; (ii) incubating the mixture formed in step (i) under alkaline conditions ($\text{pH} > 7$); and (iii) recovering an aqueous extract comprising saponins by removing solids from the alkaline mixture formed in step (ii).
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the alkaline conditions are obtained by addition of an alkali in the form of a base and/or an alkaline buffer.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the alkali is selected from the group consisting of: potassium-, sodium-, calcium-, ammonium-hydroxide or potassium-, sodium-, calcium-, ammonium-, hydroxide carbonate.
4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the incubation in step (ii) is performed at a pH of 7-14, preferably 7-10.
5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the incubation step (ii) is performed at a temperature of between 15 and 95°C at a period of between 10 minutes and 5 hours.

6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein solids are removed from the extract in step (iii) by filtration or centrifugation.
7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, yielding an extract containing at least 1 weight-% dry matter.
8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the extract obtained in step (iii) is further concentrated and/or purified by evaporation of water and/or ultrafiltration and/or recrystallization.
9. (Previously presented) A butter tree extract obtainable by the method of claim 1.
10. (Original) A method of producing an aqueous extract enriched with sapogenins comprising the step of subjecting a saponin containing extract of claim 9 to enzymatic or acid hydrolysis, and thereby obtaining an extract enriched with sapogenins.
11. (Original) A sapogenin enriched extract obtainable by the method of claim 10.
12. (Previously presented) An extract of claim 9, wherein the active compounds are chemically modified to increase their solubility in oil.
13. (Previously presented) Use of an extract of claim 9 as a food additive.

14. (Previously presented) Use of an extract of claim 9 in the manufacture of a detergent product.

15. (Previously presented) Use of an extract of claim 9 in the manufacture of a cosmetic product.

16. (Previously presented) Use of an extract of claim 9 in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical product for topical application.

17. (Previously presented) Use of an extract of claim 9 in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical product for lowering the level of serum cholesterol in a human being or in other mammals.

18. (Previously presented) Use of an extract of claim 9 in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical product for treatment of inflammatory diseases.

19. (Previously presented) Use of an extract of claim 9 in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical product for systemic administration.

20. (Previously presented) Use of an extract of claim 9 in the manufacture of a nutritional supplement.